

Michael and Nataliya Leslie
47 Oak Hill Road
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-4084
trappedatsea@gmail.com

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Honorable Governor Lepage,

It is with great regret that I inform you that I will be moving out of the State of Maine by July-August of this year. I will be changing my residency to the State of Tennessee. I expect to be closing on a property in Greeneville, TN. by mid -July of this year. I have been considering this for several years, but only recently have I deemed it a necessity. With out exaggeration I will be saving enough money to pay for 85% of my oldest daughters college education at a good state school. My immediate family will remain in Belfast until my oldest graduates BAHS next June. Do I feel an affinity with Tennessee? Heck no, I have never lived there before, but they make it a lot easier. I will list a few reasons below.

- 1) No state income tax- mine will be 7.95% of my gross income next year if I stayed in Maine.
- 2) In the area I am moving into property tax is appx. 50% of what I pay in Belfast, Maine.
- 3) Sales tax is 9.5% in Tn.(food included) but it is based on how much you buy.
- 4) No personal property tax on cars. (My old cars cost a minimum of \$85-110.00 per year to register-not including the \$12.00 annual inspection fee. In Tennessee I expect to pay about \$35-40.00 per year per car. Also no annual inspection.
- 5) No toll roads in Tennessee
- 6) Gas currently \$3.21 per gallon in Tn. As opposed to \$3.65 in Maine. In general much lower energy costs-electricity included.
- 7) Tennessee is a right to work state. They are pro-business. During the last recession their unemployment averaged around 7%.
- 8) The public schools in eastern Tn. rate well. BAHS recently received a 'D' rating, and a Great Schools rating of 4 out of 10. Every public school in Greeneville, TN. is rated higher. How do they do it? Maine spends about 8500.00-8900.00 per year on students. Tennessee about 5900.00. (Figures are approximate).

Governor, I know that you didn't create these problems, and I also know that you are trying to alleviate them to some extent. As a state we have let outsiders and too many special interest groups wrest the power from our hands. Given the present mindset the upper two thirds of Maine will forever remain poor. You can see it in the eyes of the economically challenged families where I live. The dole is no way to live. I have personally witnessed families in the UK i.e. Scotland, Northern England and Ireland that have the same look. Sure there is enough food, and basic creature comforts, but hope diminishes. Our ancestors were ambitious people forging a living out of the harsh Maine environment and abundant natural resources. Where is the balance today? Why hasn't Searsport become a major transportation hub? Imagine

the good jobs that would provide. We have some of the most well protected potential deep-water ports in New England. Energy efficiency-remember short haul trucking! We could have a balance, but the environmentalists determine our future while they are comfortably ensconced in warmer places. Please, please talk some sense into your colleagues before the state is entirely decimated of talent, and young people with original ideas-they continue to flee-brain drain.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Leslie".

Captain Michael Leslie

Office

JUN 11 2013

of the
Governor